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"the problems that come to view in the brief history of the three nations and the short description of industry." A more descriptive title would be "The Relation of Government and Industry." Government interference, government regulation, and government ownership are each accorded a separate chapter. The concluding sentences give the writer's point of view:

In England a better industrial organization is needed; in America a more efficient political organization and the subordination of the industrial to it; and in Germany a more widely developed industrial organization and larger political and social functions for the people. . . . In the United States it is clearly demonstrated that we must have stronger political institutions, a sense of duty, and a more enlightened public opinion, before we can talk about the enlargement of duties and functions of the state in the management and conduct of industry.

It is a common lament among teachers of economics that their beginning students are not sufficiently acquainted with the facts of economic life to read their textbooks on economic theory with intelligent appreciation. Professor McVey's little book put into the hands of an elementary class would be a valuable aid in surmounting this difficulty. The sprinkling of maps and pictures fit it the better for such use. But it must be added that the frequency of slovenly sentences in the book may embarrass the teacher who endeavors to cultivate in his students the habit of clear and correct expression.

W. C. M.

Handbook of Commercial Geography. By GEORGE G. CHISHOLM. Fourth corrected edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1903. 8vo, pp. xlv + 639.

The Geography of Commerce: A Text Book. By SPENCER TROTTER. ("Macmillan's Commercial Series.") New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903. 8vo, pp. xxiv + 410.

Commercial Geography: A Book for High Schools, Commercial Courses and Business Colleges. By JACQUES W. REDWAY. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1903. 8vo, pp. xiv + 406.

A Short Commercial Geography. By LIONEL W. LYDE. London: A. & C. Black, 1903. 12mo, pp. viii + 288.

That four textbooks on commercial geography should appear almost simultaneously is good evidence of the interest in this somewhat inchoate subject. That the earliest English work on commer-

cial geography, of which one of the above-mentioned books is a new edition, should remain, as the author of *The Geography of Commerce* frankly admits, the best treatise on the subject, is an indication that the past fifteen years have added more to the publishers' list of texts than they have to the scholar's armamentarium.

Everyone is so familiar with the merits of Chisholm's work that it suffices here to say that the new edition is not merely revised so as to bring the statistics down to date, but it has been increased in size by nearly a third, and contains a number of most satisfactory diagrams and a valuable introductory chapter on the commercial development of England which were not found in the earlier editions.

Despite the excellencies which make Chisholm an indispensable handbook, it is, evidently, not well suited for a textbook in an American secondary school or college. The author's point of view is in itself an obstacle, in that it gives a different proportion to things British from that which would be selected by an American. The two new books designed for American students are therefore by no means superfluous. Each of these covers the same ground, and the difference in the phraseology of the titles does not indicate any attempt to differentiate in subject-matter. Each contains, though with somewhat different arrangement, sections dealing with the general relations of geography and commerce, others describing the materials of commerce, and still others treating of the regional geography of the commercial countries. The most marked difference in arrangement is that Redway segregates the description of the raw products, while Trotter gives the general facts regarding the world's production of a given commodity in the section devoted to the country which is the leading source of the commodity. Thus, for instance, maps and statistics of the world's crop of tea and coffee are given by Trotter in the chapters on "The Chinese Empire" and "Brazil" respectively, while in Redway they are both included in a chapter on "Beverages and Medicinal Substances." Each book is bountifully supplied with excellent illustrations, and with numerous maps and diagrams. Of the latter, those furnished by Trotter are more valuable, as many of them represent the statistics through a series of years, while Redway shows the less significant figures for a single year. Each book also contains questions for discussion, and references. The questions propounded by Trotter seem more pertinent and more suggestive, while the references are not only more numerous, but are given with greater accuracy and in a more serviceable form.

Lyde's *Short Commercial Geography* is in marked contrast to the other books here noticed, as it is to any of its predecessors. It is not only bare of illustrations, diagrams, and statistical tables, but is almost entirely free from purely statistical information. For instance, the chapter on commodities has no figures of quantities produced, save in the single case of coal. The arrangement of the text is also peculiar. No narrative description of the various countries is given, the subject-matter being presented altogether in syllabus form. The merits of the book will be apparent to one who examines it at all carefully. More consistently than is the case with the rival American works, Lyde maintains the view-point of commercial geography; that is, of exhibiting the causal relation between the geographical environment and the economic development of the several countries. He omits, therefore, much unrelated geographical information, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, eschews almost entirely the statistical facts of commerce. The book is professedly more of an outline to be used in connection with outside maps and statistical manuals, and less of a treatise. That this possesses some advantages is to be admitted even by those who might claim that the arid form of the book will prove deterrent to the younger pupils. It is, however, a question whether a school text needs to be made into a picture-book, or whether the purely extrinsic interest derived from the exterior view of a gold mill, unrelated as it is to the text, will serve to vivify the dry bones of statistics.

HENRY RAND HATFIELD.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Facts and Figures: The Basis of Economic Science. By EDWARD ATKINSON. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1904. 8vo, pp. x + 202.

Mr. Atkinson has collected in a volume, under the title just given above, four essays and addresses which deal with some questions uppermost in the public mind. These are called: "A True Policy of Protection;" "The Tendency to Individualism Rather than Collectivism in the Manufacturing and All Other Arts;" "An Address to the American Free Trade League on the Hundredth Anniversary of Richard Cobden's Birth;" and "The Cost of War and Warfare." The spirit of investigation, discriminating statement, and subject-matter found in this table of contents are very much more uniform